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Committee on Import Licensing

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IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF MYANMAR

QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO MYANMAR

The following communication, dated 18 September 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

The United States greatly appreciates Myanmar's recent notifications (G/LIC/N/1/MMR/1; G/LIC/N/2/MMR/1) to the Committee on Import Licensing. The United States encourages continued transparency through further notifications and looks forward to Myanmar's upcoming replies to the annual questionnaire so that this Committee can better understand these procedures.

Under Myanmar's recently notified Export and Import Law (The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.17/2012 on 17 September 2012), Chapter 3 states that the Ministry of Commerce may determine "*restricted goods, prohibited goods and banned goods for export and import*" as well as "*issuing permit and determining conditions relating to permit for export and import goods*." The United States also understands that "sensitive" products must go to Ministry of Commerce's (MOC) Economic Committee for import permit approval.

1. Could Myanmar please explain the composition of the MOC Economic Committee and how members are chosen?
2. What is the Economic Committee's process for granting import permits?
3. When importers are denied an import permit, are they given a reason for denial? Does a process of appeals exist following the denial of the import permit? If so, could Myanmar please outline this process?
4. Could Myanmar please provide a list of products that must be reviewed by the MOC Economic Committee before import permits are granted?
5. Could Myanmar please provide a list of all products that are currently restricted, prohibited, or banned for importation?
6. Are there any implementing regulations related to the Export and Import Law? If so, the United States requests Myanmar notify these additional regulations to the appropriate WTO committees as soon as possible.

Furthermore, United States respectfully requests that Myanmar provide this Committee with the following additional information.

7. A list of agricultural products subject to restrictions and any other "sensitive" agricultural products that are currently ineligible for importation, either permanently or temporarily.
8. The purpose for such restrictions.

The nature of the import licensing (automatic or non-automatic) for potatoes, corn grains, poultry and pork. If non-automatic, what is the purpose behind this license?